

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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S/S - RPERITO

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P 212111Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208591

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, MASS, PK, US

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI CHARGE CALLS ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ATHERTON

1. FOLLOWING CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
DUBS ON NARCOTICS (SEPTTEL), PAKISTANI CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
IQBAL RIZA CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AUGUST 18.
DURING THE CORDIAL CONVERSATION, THE FOLLOWING THEMES WERE
TOUCHED UPON.

2. RIZA EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO
LAHORE SEEMED TO HAVE GONE WELL. HE AND ATHERTON AGREED
THAT PRESS COVERAGE HAD WRONGLY GIVEN IMPRESSION OF CON-
FRONTATIONAL ATMOSPHERE, WHICH SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE PRESS
CONFERENCE HAD CORRECTED. ATHERTON SAID OUR INTENTION NOW
WAS TO PURSUE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS
AND AVOID TO EXTENT POSSIBLE FURTHER PUBLIC DISCUSSION.
IN THIS CONNECTION, HE CALLED RIZA'S ATTENTION TO REUTERS
ITEM WHICH HAD APPEARED ON TICKER THAT MORNING QUOTING
AZIZ AHMED AS STATING TO THE PRESS THAT PAKISTAN AND FRANCE
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WOULD PROCEED TO CARRY OUT THEIR AGREEMENT FOR A REPROCESSING

FACILITY.

3. RIZA PROBED AS TO WHAT PROPOSALS MIGHT HAVE BEEN PUT TO HIS GOVERNMENT BY THE SECRETARY. ATHERTON SAID THE SECRETARY HAD DISCUSSED CERTAIN IDEAS WITH A VIEW TO AVOIDING ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR U.S.-PAKISTANI RELATIONS INHERENT IN THE SYMINGTON AMENDMENT. HE UNDERSTOOD THE GOP WOULD BE REFLECTING ON THIS ISSUE. MEANWHILE, SINCE DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER HAD TAKEN PLACE IN PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, ATHERTON SAID HE WAS SURE RIZA WOULD AGREE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THEM TO GO INTO THIS MATTER FURTHER AT THIS TIME. IN ANY EVENT, AMBASSADOR YAQUB-KHAN HAD BEEN RECALLED TO ISLAMABAD FOR CONSULTATIONS AND WOULD PRESUMABLY BE FULLY BRIEFED BY PRIME MINISTER.

4. RIZA ASKED WHAT ACTION BROUGHT INTO PLAY THE PROVISIONS OF THE SYMINGTON AMENDMENT, AND WAS TOLD THAT ALTHOUGH THE TEXT OF THE AMENDMENT WAS SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS, THE INTENT OF THE CONGRESS SEEMED CLEAR. RIZA NOTED THE "IRONY" THAT THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION HAD TRIGGERED THE CONGRESS' INTEREST IN NUCLEAR AFFAIRS, YET BECAUSE INDIA'S RE-PROCESSING FACILITIES INVOLVED NO FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY, THEY WERE BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE AMENDMENT. RIZA INQUIRED ABOUT IRAN'S PROGRAM. ATHERTON SAID IRAN'S SITUATION DIFFERED MARKEDLY FROM PAKISTAN'S: THE IRAN/FRG AGREEMENT ON REACTORS LEAVES THE QUESTION OF REPROCESSING FOR CONSIDERATION MANY YEARS HENCE. THE IRAN/U.S. AGREEMENT WAS STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION.

5. RIZA SOUGHT INDICATIONS OF WHEN INFORMAL NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO ISSUE LETTERS OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE FOR MARK 46 TORPEDOES, SIDEWINDER MISSILES, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, TANK RECOVERY VEHICLES, AND AMMUNITION MIGHT GO TO THE HILL. RIZA EMPHASIZED MINISTER AZIZ AHMED'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN EACH CASE AND EACH STEP OF THE PROVESS. ATHERTON REPLIED THAT WE WERE AWARE OF PAKISTANI INTEREST IN SEEING THESE CASES MOVE FORWARD AND WERE WORKING ON THEM WITH THE PLANNED CONGRESSIONAL OCTOBER 2 ADJOURNMENT DATE IN MIND; THERE WAS STILL TIME REMAINING; WE HAVE SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE 20-DAY INFORMAL NOTIFICATION TO THE COMMITTEE STAFFS, BUT NOT WITH REGARD TO THE 30-DAY STATUTORY FORMAL NOTIFICATION TO THE CONGRESS.

5. IN RESPONSE TO RIZA'S QUERY REGARDING A-7 AIRCRAFT, ATHERTON SAID WE HAD REACHED NO CONSLUSIONS. THE A-7 SALE WAS CLEARLY OF A DIFFERENT ORDER OF MAGNITUDE THAN THOSE EARLIER DISCUSSED, AND EARLY SUBMISSION TO THE

CONGRESS COULD STIR OPPOSITION. RIZA SAID THIS WAS ALSO
THE PAK EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT AND SPECULATED THAT ACTION
MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE DURING THIS SESSION OF THE CONGRESS.
ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE208591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RKMCKEE/HLK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760321-0366
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760831/aaaabamm.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAKISTANI CHARGE CALLS ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, MASS, PK, US, (RIZA, IQBAL), (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR)
To: ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006